

### **Adopt-A-Highway Program**

The North Carolina AAH program saves taxpayers approximately \$4 million annually in roadside cleanup costs. It is one of the largest anti-litter programs in the nation, representing approximately 5,500 groups that include around 125,000 volunteers statewide. These volunteers have adopted about 11,000 miles of state-maintained roadsides.

When a group adopts a highway, the local coordinator works with volunteers to select an available section of state-maintained highway. Each adopted section of highway is approximately two miles long. Volunteer groups sign agreements with the NCDOT to remove litter from their adopted sections of roadsides a minimum of four times each year. Some roads that are traveled more heavily may require additional pickups.

The NCDOT also provides safety training, safety vests, orange litterbags, blue recycling bags and gloves. In addition, the NCDOT removes the trash-filled bags from roadsides following a pickup.

A highway is adopted for a period of four years. The adopting group may keep its adopted section of highway indefinitely if the agreement is renewed every four years and litter is collected at least four times each year or more often if necessary. An agreement may be canceled upon 30 days written notice to the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

### **More Information**

You can learn more about this event by contacting the Catawba County Utilities and Engineering Department at (828) 465-8261, or Litter Sweep Hotline at (800) 331-5864, or on the web at [www.dot.state.nc.us/~beautification](http://www.dot.state.nc.us/~beautification). You may also obtain information from the Catawba County web site at [www.catawbacountync.gov/depts/u&e/umain.htm](http://www.catawbacountync.gov/depts/u&e/umain.htm)

### **Swat A Litterbug**

Motorists and pedestrians may report incidents of litter law violations to our office by mailing or e-mailing Swat-A-Litterbug report cards. Reports can also be made to the department's Customer Service Office by calling 1-877-DOT-4YOU. Upon receipt of the completed report card, the Office of Beautification Programs will notify the owner that such a violation may involve a penalty of \$1,000. This formal note of warning signed by the Colonel of the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Colonel of the State Highway Patrol helps to remind citizens of their civic responsibility to protect the environment.

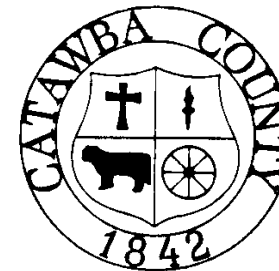
**In 2001, more than 5,000 litterbugs were reported.** The Swat-A-Litterbug Program provides every citizen an opportunity to be an active participant in insuring that the highways and roads of North Carolina are kept clean and beautiful.

*Printed on Recycled Paper.*



# ***Litter Sweep Weeks***

***September 13  
through  
September 28, 2003***



**The  
Board of Commissioners  
proclaim  
“Litter Sweep”  
throughout  
Catawba County**

## ***Wanted: Volunteers Concerned with the Environment***

Litter Sweep is the North Carolina Department of Transportation's bi-annual clean-up drive. Running each year the last two weeks in April and September. Governor Easley issues a proclamation during each clean-up to encourage North Carolina citizens, businesses, local governments, civic groups and Adopt-A-Highway volunteers to participate in making our state clean, green and beautiful. Litter Sweep Weeks promotes citizens to clean up public areas such as roads, highways, lakes, streams, and parks.



### **What about Litter Sweep in Catawba County?**

Catawba County Board of Commissioners also issues a proclamation of "Litter Sweep in Catawba County" to coincide with the state's proclamation. The fall dates are September 13-28, 2003.

### **How can I take part?**

- Decide on the area (road) you want to clean-up
- You may organize assistance from your neighbors, civic groups, church groups, etc.
- Decide on the date you will do the clean-up
- Come to the Utilities and Engineering Department located in the Government Center, Newton, NC to pick up orange trash bags and blue bags for recyclables
- Complete the clean-up

### **Two ways to remove bags.**

1. You may collect the orange and blue bags yourself and take them to any of the five County Convenience Centers located throughout the County, along with the declaration form, at no charge. (See below for Convenience Center locations)
2. You may call the North Carolina Department of Transportation county maintenance office at (828)466-5519 to arrange for collection of the bags.

North Carolina Departmental maintenance crews donate one week of time during the sweep to pick up litter and collect orange bags from the roadsides.

#### **Convenience Centers:**

**Cooksville**-Rhoney Farm Rd  
(704) 462-1497

**Blackburn**-Rocky Ford Rd  
(704) 462-2496

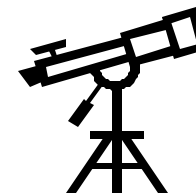
**Newton**-Bethany Church Rd  
(828) 465-4635

**Oxford**-Lookout Dam Rd  
(828) 241-3774

**Sherrills Ford**-Sherrills Ford Rd  
(828) 478-2248

### **Most Unusual Litter Award**

While completing your clean-up should you come across interesting litter you can enter the Most Unusual Litter Award. Just take a picture of the litter, complete the form and send it in. You can obtain the form for Most Unusual Litter at the Utilities and Engineering Department. First place in the State wins \$250, 2nd place wins \$100, and 3rd place wins \$50.



The spring winner found a telescope in Cashiers, NC.

Other interesting items found have been library books, Korean money, a catheter bag, electric organ, a New Testament Bible, gum ball machine, stolen wallet and handbag, Tinkie Winkie Teletubie and many others.

### **Certificate of Appreciation**

A Certificate of Appreciation will be sent to your group from the State Department of Transportation upon request. The Utilities & Engineering Department will submit your information to the State.

